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Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal

Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade

Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants

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Conference of the Parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal
Twelfth meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 5 of the provisional agenda*
Programme of work and budget

Conference of the Parties to the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 6 of the provisional agenda**
Programme of work and budget

Conference of the Parties to the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants
Seventh meeting
Geneva, 4–15 May 2015
Item 6 of the provisional agenda***
Programme of work and budget

Enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. At their simultaneous extraordinary meetings held in May 2013, the conferences of the parties to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants adopted the omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions[1] (hereinafter "2013 omnibus decision").

2. In paragraph 4 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the conferences of the parties requested the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to provide a succinct report on the implementation of the 2013 omnibus decision to the conferences of the parties at their 2015 meetings.

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* UNEP/CHW.12/1.

** UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/1.

*** UNEP/POPS/COP.7/1.

[1] BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1and SC.Ex-2/1.

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3. In addition, in paragraphs 5 and 6 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the conferences of the parties decided to undertake a further review of the synergies arrangements. To this end, they requested the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with UNEP and FAO and in consultation with parties, to prepare options for such a review and its methodology, including draft terms of reference, for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015. The review should be based on an independent assessment of the implementation and impact of the joint activities and joint managerial functions, including services, at all levels and presented as a report for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017.

4. Furthermore, in paragraph 10 of the same decision, the conferences of the parties noted that the part of the Secretariat of the Rotterdam Convention hosted by FAO – which was not included in the matrix-based[2] management approach and organization – contributed to all the operational areas set out in that approach and organization and, accordingly, requested that the Executive Secretary of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions review the proposals to enhance synergies arrangements, set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9).

5. Finally, in paragraph 13 of the same decision, the conferences of the parties invited the Executive Director of UNEP, in consultation with the Director-General of FAO and the Executive Secretary, to undertake a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization to ensure that the operation of the Secretariat was efficient and effective, to advise the conferences of the parties of any follow-up action necessary at their meetings in 2017 and to make any such changes as were deemed necessary in advance of the next meetings of the conferences of the parties following the 2017 meetings.

II. Implementation

6. Pursuant to the request set out in paragraph 4 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Executive Secretary, in consultation with the Executive Director of UNEP and the Director-General of FAO, has prepared a report on the implementation of the 2013 omnibus decision structured according to the seven sections contained in that decision.[3] The report is set out in annex I to the present note.

7. The Executive Secretary, in collaboration with UNEP and FAO and in consultation with parties as relevant, has also prepared options for the review of the synergies arrangements and its methodology, including draft terms of reference that encompass the requests set out in paragraphs 5, 6, 10 and 13 of the omnibus decision, given that they all relate to the implementation and the results of the synergies arrangements. The draft terms of reference of the review of the synergies arrangements are set out in annex II to the present note.

III. Proposed action

8. Each Conference of the Parties may wish to adopt a decision along the following lines:

The Conference of the Parties,

Mindful of the legal autonomy of, respectively, the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal, the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade and the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants,

Recognizing the broad scope of the three conventions,

Welcoming the continued commitment of all parties to ensuring the implementation of the full breadth of the three conventions,

Reaffirming that actions taken to enhance coordination and cooperation should be aimed at strengthening the implementation of the three conventions at the national, regional and global levels, promoting coherent policy guidance and enhancing efficiency in the

[2] The term "matrix-based" refers to the structure of the Secretariat, with four interlinked branches and a central office, which was endorsed by the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions by decision BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1and SC.Ex-2/1.

[3] I. Review arrangements; II. Organization of the secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; III. Joint activities; IV. Enhanced cooperation and coordination between technical bodies of the three conventions; V. Wider cooperation; VI. Transparency and accountability; and VII. Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes.

provision of support to parties, with a view to reducing their administrative burden and maximizing the effective and efficient use of resources at all levels,

Mindful of the various principles recognized within the three conventions, including pertinent provisions of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development[4] and reiterating previous decisions on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions,[5]

Noting that the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions are simultaneously adopting the present decision, on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, as decisions BC-12/[], RC-7/[] and SC-7/[], respectively,

1. *Takes note* of the report on the implementation of the 2013 omnibus decision on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions prepared by the Secretariat[6] and the progress made in the implementation of the decision;

2. *Adopts* the terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements;[7]

3. *Requests* the Secretariat:

(a) To present a report containing conclusions and recommendations on follow-up action on the review of the synergies arrangements for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017;

(b) To prepare a report on the implementation of joint activities for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017;

(c) To prepare a report on the implementation of the Secretariat's gender action plan for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2017.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No.E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[5] Decisions IX/10, RC-4/11, SC-4/34, BC.Ex-1/1, RC.Ex-1/1, SC.Ex-1/1, BC-10/29, RC-5/12, SC-5/27, BC.Ex-2/1, RC.Ex-2/1, SC.Ex-2/1.

[6] UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1, annex I.

[7] Ibid., annex II.

Annex I

Report by the Secretariat on the implementation of the 2013 omnibus decision

I. Introduction

1. The present report has been prepared by the Secretariat, in consultation with the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), pursuant to the request set out in paragraph 4 of section I on review arrangements of the 2013 omnibus decision.

II. Review arrangements

2. Pursuant to paragraphs 5, 6, 10 and 13 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Executive Secretary, in collaboration with UNEP and FAO and in consultation with parties as relevant, has prepared options for the review of the synergies arrangements and its methodology, including draft terms of reference.

3. The draft terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements may be found in annex II to the note by the Secretariat on enhancing cooperation and coordination among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/23/Rev.1-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/17/Rev.1-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/33/Rev.1).

III. Organization of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions

4. In accordance with the financing and budget decisions taken in 2013 (BC-11/26, RC-6/16 and SC-6/30), the indicative staffing table for the Secretariat for the biennium 2014–2015 includes posts funded from the three conventions. In these decisions, the conferences of the parties took note of the staffing table and indicated that it could be used for costing purposes. The indicative staffing table includes 59.5 posts funded from the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions' general trust funds, including 3.5 posts provided in kind by FAO (0.25 at the D-2 level, 1 at P-5, 1 at P-3 and 1.25 Secretary) and 11 posts funded from voluntary trust funds.

5. The executive secretaries were authorized, on the basis of this indicative staffing table and remaining within the overall staffing budget, to determine the staffing levels, numbers and structure of the Secretariat in a flexible manner. This also served as the starting point when preparing the staffing table for the two alternative funding scenarios for the proposed operational budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions for the biennium 2016–2017. Additional information may be found in the note by the Secretariat on the programmes of work and proposed budgets for the biennium 2016–2017 (UNEP/CHW.12/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/32).

6. In 2013, the Secretariat began to conduct a review of all job descriptions of UNEP staff in order to better reflect and strengthen the matrix structure. The review is in the final stage of finalization at the time of the drafting of the present report. The job descriptions provide a solid foundation for recruitment and vacancy announcements, for individual work plans and performance management, for training needs assessment, and for the classification of posts against United Nations standards.

7. The parts of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO and UNEP have explored the possibilities of staff loans between the two locations. As the additional resources needed to cover the difference in cost of staff categories between the two locations are not within the current budget, no staff loans are foreseen for the biennium 2014–2015.

8. Pursuant to paragraph 9 of the 2013 omnibus decision, information on projected and actual cost savings since the implementation of the matrix-based management approach for the biennium 2012–2013, including reallocations for the years 2012 and 2013, is given in the note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/42-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/28-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/48).

9. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the draft terms of reference set out in annex II to the present document include provisions for the review of the proposals set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by FAO to enhance synergies arrangements

(UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9). Following the implementation of the matrix-based management approach and organization, the FAO-hosted part of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat and the branches of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions hosted by UNEP have continued to cooperate in carrying out various activities, in particular those related to technical assistance, scientific support, meeting organization and managerial activities.[1]

IV. Joint activities

10. Pursuant to paragraph 17 (a) of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Secretariat has prepared a report on the implementation of joint activities, including recommendations on areas for the further development or adjustment of those activities. Possible future joint activities have also been identified, including through engagement with parties, for consideration by the conferences of the parties at their meetings in 2015.

11. Information on joint activities carried out by the Secretariat in 2014 pursuant to paragraph 17 (a) of the 2013 omnibus decision may be found in the note by the Secretariat on the report on the implementation of joint activities contained in the 2014–2015 programme budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51). The Secretariat has presented similar reports on the implementation of joint activities to the bureaux of the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2014 and sought their feedback on the implementation of joint activities. The reports of the bureaux meetings are available on the conventions' websites.[2]

12. Following the further consolidation of the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, joint activities have become the standard working modality of the Secretariat in many areas. For example, in the programme budget for the biennium 2014–2015, 17 of the activities are joint activities, while only 7 are specific to the Basel Convention, 6 to the Rotterdam Convention and 6 to the Stockholm Convention.

13. Draft proposals for joint activities for 2016–2017 have been included in the proposed programmes of work and budgets of the three conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/22-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/16-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/32). The proposed activities are presented as an integral part of the programmes of work and budgets. Fact sheets for all proposed activities, including joint activities, which provide additional information on each budget activity, are set out in the note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/38-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/24-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/44).

14. In accordance with the Secretariat's gender action plan,[3] gender aspects should be taken into account in the Secretariat's projects and programmes. Information regarding the mainstreaming of gender in the Secretariat is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/49-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/33-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/54).

15. With a view to supporting parties in gaining a full understanding of the science involved when taking decisions on chemicals and wastes within the scope of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and in considering a lifecycle approach for the sound management of hazardous chemicals and wastes, the Secretariat has developed a framework for mainstreaming science into the work under the three conventions, which is set out in the note by the Secretariat on the issue (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/53-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/38-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/57).

[1] Information on the organizational structure of the Secretariat as at 8 December 2014 is set out in document UNEP/CHW.12/INF/37-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/35-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/55.

[2] www.basel.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Bureau/COPBureau2014/Overview/tabid/3702/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/8051/EventID/470/xmid/11684/Default.aspx, www.pic.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Bureau/COPBureau2014/tabid/3681/language/en-US/Default.aspx andhttp://chm.pops.int/TheConvention/ConferenceoftheParties/Bureau/COPBureau2014/Overview/tabid/3690/mctl/ViewDetails/EventModID/1126/EventID/468/xmid/11645/Default.aspx.

[3] http://synergies.pops.int/Portals/4/download.aspx?d=UNEP-FAO-CHW-RC-POPS-SEC-REP-BRS-GAP-draft.English.pdf.

V. Enhanced cooperation and coordination between technical bodies of the three conventions

16. Pursuant to paragraphs 21 and 22 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Secretariat has supported cooperation and coordination among the technical bodies of the three conventions, including by organizing meetings of the bodies in a coordinated manner and by facilitating information exchange among the bodies to address cross-cutting issues.

17. Information on the implementation of the requests contained in paragraphs 21 and 22 of the 2013 omnibus decision is provided in the respective notes by the Secretariat on the Chemicals Review Committee and the Persistent Organic Pollutants Review Committee (UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/6 and UNEP/POPS/COP.7/17), and information on the implementation of joint activity S6 on the support of the work of and coordination among the scientific bodies of the conventions is contained in the note by the Secretariat on the report on the implementation of joint activities contained in the 2014–2015 programme budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51).

VI. Wider cooperation

18. Pursuant to paragraph 25 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Secretariat has further enhanced cooperation and coordination with the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

19. Pursuant to paragraph 29 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Executive Secretary informed the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries of the Minamata Convention on Mercury, which convened in Kumamoto, Japan, on 10 and 11 October 2013, of the relevant paragraphs of the decision adopted by the conferences of the parties regarding cooperation and coordination with the Minamata Convention.

20. In paragraph 1 of its resolution on matters pertaining to other international bodies,[4] the Conference of the Plenipotentiaries noted the decisions of the conferences of the parties and, in paragraph 5, invited the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to cooperate closely, as appropriate, with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest. In paragraph 12 of its resolution on arrangements in the interim period,[5] the Conference of Plenipotentiaries also requested the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention to cooperate and coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant actors, including the Secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, in order to make full use of relevant experience and expertise.

21. In accordance with the above-mentioned mandates, the Secretariat has cooperated with the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention in areas of mutual interest to the four conventions, with a view to making full use of relevant experience and expertise.

22. Information on cooperation and coordination between the Secretariat and, respectively, the secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the interim secretariat of the Minamata Convention is set out in the note by the Secretariat on international cooperation and coordination (UNEP/CHW.12/19-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/15-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/31).

23. Information on the implementation of joint activity S19, on international cooperation and coordination, which includes information related to wider cooperation under the 2013 omnibus decision, is provided in the note by the Secretariat on the report on the implementation of joint activities contained in the 2014–2015 programme budgets of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51).

VII. Transparency and accountability

24. Pursuant to paragraphs 31 and 32 of the 2013 omnibus decision, during the biennium 2014–2015 the Secretariat has continued to prepare and post all management reports referred to in those paragraphs on a quarterly, annual or biennial basis, as appropriate, on the synergies website[6] with the aim of increasing the openness, transparency and accountability of its operations.

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[4] UNEP(DTIE)/Hg/CONF/4, annex I.

[5] Ibid.

[6] http://synergies.pops.int/ManagementReports/SecretariatReports/2014/tabid/3717/language/en-US/Default.aspx.

25. Furthermore, during the biennium 2012–2013, an audit by the Office of Internal Oversight Services was conducted on coordination and cooperation among the three conventions. The audit was carried out over the period from 28 October to 12 November 2013 and its outcomes are contained in the note by the Secretariat on the audit (UNEP/CHW.12/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/49).

VIII. Facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes

26. In paragraph 34 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the conferences of the parties welcomed decision 27/12, section VIII, on the consultative process on financing options for chemicals and wastes adopted by the Governing Council of UNEP at its twenty-seventh session, in February 2013.

27. Pursuant to the request set out in paragraph 42 of the 2013 omnibus decision, the Executive Secretary has ensured that the Secretariat's activities and support to parties under the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions have taken as reference an integrated approach, as referred to in the 2013 omnibus decision.

28. Information relevant to implementation of the request contained in paragraph 42 of the 2013 omnibus decision, including a report on progress in implementing the three mutually reinforcing components of the integrated approach, mainstreaming, industry involvement and dedicated external finance, and highlighting challenges in mobilizing financial resources within these components, for consideration and possible recommendations by the conferences of the parties, is provided in the note by the Secretariat on facilitating financial resources for chemicals and wastes (UNEP/CHW.12/20-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/14-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/26).

Annex II

Draft terms of reference for the review of the synergies arrangements, including the review of the matrix-based management approach

I. Objective

1. The present document outlines the draft terms of reference for the work to be carried out pursuant to paragraphs 5, 6, 10 and 13 of the 2013 omnibus decision for the review of the synergies arrangements, which should be based on an independent assessment of the implementation and impact of the joint activities and joint managerial functions, including services, at all levels. The review will also include a review of the matrix-based management approach and organization, to ensure that the operation of the secretariats is efficient and effective, and also the proposals on how to enhance synergies arrangements, set out in the note by the Secretariat on the organization and operation of the Rotterdam Convention Secretariat hosted by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/9).

2. The outcome of this review should be presented as a report containing an assessment of the various elements of the synergies arrangements and any follow-up action necessary. The review aims to help parties analyse the synergies processes, and the overall objectives, in a comprehensive manner. As such, the report should indicate the positive results achieved, for example in terms of efficiency, cost savings and other relevant criteria and, at the same time, should indicate which gaps, weaknesses and lessons learned are derived from these processes, and the impact which all these results have. It is the hope that the review will increase the visibility and impact of the conventions. From the recommendations highlighted in this assessment, parties should be able to define how the synergies arrangements could be enhanced and what needs to be adapted or modified in the future.

II. Methodology

3. An independent assessor will be hired by the Secretariat to carry out the review work. The assessor will use different methods for this purpose, such as interviews with parties taking into account a regional balance, with bureaux members, with Secretariat staff based in Geneva and in Rome, and with relevant stakeholders.

4. The assessor will also consider the following reports and, when relevant, the action taken by the conferences of the parties in furtherance to the respective recommendations set out therein:

(a) Reports on the implementation of joint activities presented to the conferences of the parties;[1]

(b) Report by the consultant on the review of job descriptions;

(c) Reports on the review of the synergies arrangements presented to the conference of the parties in 2013;[2]

(d) Final report of the audit by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) on coordination and cooperation among the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions;[3]

(e) Other relevant reports published on the websites of the conventions.

III. Report

5. The report will consider the synergies arrangements from the viewpoint of the parties, the Secretariat and other stakeholders, at national, regional, and international levels. It will cover the period from the adoption of the first synergies decisions in 2005 to 2015.

6. The report of the review of the synergies arrangements to be presented to the conferences of the parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions at their meetings in 2017 will include the following elements:

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[1] UNEP/CHW.12/INF/45-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/31-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/51.

[2] See UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/5 and UNEP/FAO/CHW/RC/POPS/EXCOPS.2/INF/6.

[3] UNEP/CHW.12/INF/43-UNEP/FAO/RC/COP.7/INF/29-UNEP/POPS/COP.7/INF/49.

(a) Introduction;

(b) Review of joint activities:

(i) Technical assistance;

(ii) Scientific and technical activities;

(iii) Regional centres;

(iv) Clearing-house mechanism;

(v) Public awareness, outreach and publications;

(vi) Reporting;

(vii) Overall management;

(c) Review of the management approach;

(d) Conclusions and recommendations on follow-up action.

7. As part of the review of the joint activities, the report will also include certain specific assessments. For the joint activities on technical assistance, it will include an assessment of partnerships and of the technical assistance programme of the Secretariat; for those on scientific and technical activities, an assessment of the cooperation and coordination between the technical bodies of the three conventions; and for those on overall management, an assessment of international cooperation and coordination activities undertaken jointly for the conventions and also of the experience in organizing back-to-back meetings of the conferences of the parties to the three conventions.

8. In addition, the report would take account of the special programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and its potential for contributing to synergies in the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions. The objective of the special programme is to support country-driven institutional strengthening at the national level, in the context of an integrated approach to the financing of the sound management of chemicals and wastes, taking into account the development strategies, plans and priorities of each country, with a view to building sustainable public institutional capacity for the sound management of chemicals and wastes throughout their life cycle.

9. The report will be focused and succinct and its executive summary will be made available in the six official languages of the United Nations.

10. The Secretariat will submit the report to the conferences of the parties for consideration at their meetings in 2017.